

50th FORTUNE 500 issue spotlights Tennessee

The April issue of FORTUNE magazine featuring its 50th anniversary FORTUNE 500 list includes a 26-page special insert section on the State of Tennessee. The issue is already proving to be one of the most widely read in the magazine's 74-year history.

spotlight on Tennessee will draw national and international attention to our strong business climate and resources which will serve to open even more doors to job growth for Tennessee."

The state's latest "FastTrack" initiative, designed to expedite the

interests of businesses looking to expand or invest in Tennessee jobs, receives special attention in the section. The initiative is a priority of Governor Bredesen's Administration and is being directed by ECD with support from other state

agencies and higher education institutions involved in Tennessee job growth.

"This project reflects one of the most unique and successful collaborative efforts on the part of Tennessee business and industry," said ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber. "This special commemorative issue features seven Tennessee companies that made the FORTUNE 500 listing, has received advertising support from a host of Tennessee businesses and institutions, was printed by Quebecor in Clarksville, Tennessee, and distributed throughout the nation by FedEx, another great Tennessee company."

Atys US moves to Hickman County

Gusts of wind and partly cloudy skies didn't damper the moods of those attending a special announcement in the Hickman County area on March 26.

Governor Phil Bredesen was joined by ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber and other local officials to welcome representatives of Atys US, an international company specializing in the fruit preparation industry, to Tennessee. The company is leasing an existing 100,000 square foot building in Centerville to house a manufacturing operation that will initially employ 50 in the area. Over the next three years, employment is expected to grow to more than 100.

"We are pleased that a company like the Atys Group has decided to expand its operations to Centerville and make Tennessee part of its international family," said Governor Phil Bredesen. "This is a very important announcement for the state and the Hickman County community. We look forward to a successful relationship with Atys US."

Frito-Lay expands plant in Lincoln County

ECD recently announced that Frito-Lay will expand its operations at an existing Fayetteville manufacturing and distribution facility in Lincoln County creating between 30 to 40 new jobs in the area this year.

The Frito-Lay expansion represents up to a \$4 million investment for the company in the Fayetteville community. In addition to creating new jobs, Frito-Lay will add new equipment and increase production at the facility. Currently, about 400 employees are employed by Frito-Lay in Fayetteville.

This type of existing industry expansion has been one of the focuses of the Governor's Jobs Cabinet since its creation in March of 2003.



FORTUNE magazine executives congratulate Governor Bredesen and Commissioner Kisber on Tennessee's State profile in the 50th FORTUNE 500 issue.

Representatives from FORTUNE and the Department of Economic and Community Development began working on the special section last year. A team of ECD staff spearheaded the effort spotlighting Tennessee as the magazine's only state development section by working closely with FORTUNE's top executive, sales and editorial teams on everything from advertising and magazine art to editorial focus and content.

"It is an honor and privilege to have Tennessee so prominently featured in one of the most read and respected business publications in the world," said Governor Phil Bredesen. "I have no doubt that this

From the desk of the Commissioner



Since my appointment as Commissioner of ECD, I have emphasized the importance of Tennessee's existing industry. Making up 80% of new jobs in the state, existing industry is an important aspect of our economic future that deserves special focus.

We have made a concerted effort to expand services to existing industry. I am pleased to say that the incentive programs that have encouraged so many new companies to locate in Tennessee are also available to existing industry. Not only are grant, loan and tax incentive programs available, but we have also designed our new FastTrack program with existing industry in mind.

Over the last few months, we have made great strides with helping our existing industries. We've had success with companies such as Sanford, which expanded in Shelbyville creating 300 jobs in the area. In addition, Tellico Plains-based Short Bark Industries has grown by adding a new factory in Minor Hill creating 100 new jobs. Frito-Lay recently expanded its Fayetteville manufacturing and distribution facility creating nearly 40 new jobs and K&A Crylics in Bedford County has expanded on its 25-years of designing and manufacturing premium acrylics displays and fixtures with new jobs in Tennessee.

As we continue to build relationships with our existing industries, we will use our resources to help maintain Tennessee's position as one of the best places in the country to live, work, and do business.

Auto parts manufacturer breaks ground in Tennessee

Governor Phil Bredesen, ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber and other local officials participated in a groundbreaking ceremony in Clinton on March 29 for Aisin Automotive Casting Tennessee, Inc., a subsidiary of Japanese auto parts manufacturer Aisin Seiki Co. Ltd. Aisin is locating a 280,000 square foot plant in the Clinton-Interstate 75 Industrial Park, just off Highway 61. The company, which is one of the Toyota groups, will create 400 jobs in the area by 2007.

Aisin will invest approximately \$67 million in the Clinton

community, where it will operate a full process die-casting facility that includes casting, machining and assembly to produce functional engine components.



Governor Bredesen and Commissioner Kisber join Aisin executives and local officials during a groundbreaking ceremony in Clinton.

Short Bark Industries expands presence in the state

ECD was pleased to be part of the announcement of an exciting new development in Giles County. Tellico Plains-based Short Bark Industries is expanding its Tennessee operations and will lease 22,000 square feet in the former Summit Sportswear factory in Minor Hill to create 100 new jobs in the area. Short Bark Industries is a third generation family-owned

business, which manufactures seat covers and military uniforms.

"This announcement serves as an example of the state's commitment to existing industry," said Commissioner Kisber. "We look forward to the continued success of Short Bark, and intend to continue this type of growth around the state."

HSN locating in Piney Flats

ECD recently announced that the Home Shopping Network (HSN), a global multi-channel retailer will locate a new fulfillment center in the Piney Flats community in Sullivan County. HSN has acquired an existing 1,000,000-square foot building, formerly occupied by Tennessee Distribu-

tion (Fingerhut), situated on a 100-acre site in the Tri-County Industrial Park. The company will initially employ 300 people when it opens in late summer/early fall and will upgrade existing conveyor/sorting systems and IT equipment to help meet production needs.

Starbucks moves to TN

ECD recently announced that Ozburn Hessey Logistics (OHL) will locate a 125,000 square foot distribution center in LaVergne creating 75 jobs. The center will provide logistics and shipping services to 900 Starbucks locations from Wisconsin to Florida.

ECD Commissioner Announces Staff Promotions

ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber recently announced the promotion of two ECD team members.

"I am excited about the team of professionals we have assembled here at ECD," said Kisber. "Each of these individuals brings a great deal of experience and leadership capabilities to the roles they have undertaken. I'm looking forward to working with each of them to ensure we're reaching our goals in economic and community development initiatives."

Rick Meredith was recently promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Business Services. Meredith joined ECD in February 2003 and previously held the position of Director of Community Economic Development in the department's Community Development Division.

His new responsibilities will include leading efforts at the retention and expansion of existing business and industry in Tennessee. Additionally, Meredith will lead a new initiative aimed at supporting small and minority-owned business growth and development in Tennessee through the statewide launch of the new Business Enterprise Resource Office (BERO).

Melinda Keifer has stepped into the role of Director of Community Economic Development in ECD's Community Development Division. Keifer joined ECD in July 2003 and previously held the position of Community Economic Development Consultant for the Upper Cumberland and Southeast Tennessee areas.

Her new responsibilities will include leading the direction of the new pilot initiative for the Three-Star program, which awards communities for excellence in economic and community development, as well as reviving the Tennessee Main Street initiative, which assists rural communities revitalize their downtown areas and central business districts.

Partnership formed to assist the Cumberland Plateau region

The Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development, the Tennessee Valley Authority and five counties in the upper Cumberland Plateau are working together to promote business retention and expansion efforts.

ECD and TVA recently joined local officials in Clay, Fentress, Morgan, Overton and Pickett Counties to officially kick-off the formation of The High Cumberland Regional Economic Development Council (HCREDC). One of HCREDC's goals is the creation of a new regional web site that will be used as part of the Council's overall marketing strategy.

The HCREDC was established to address common regional issues and opportunities in those counties and will work together to create a regional existing business retention and expansion program.

Along with the kick-off announcement for HCREDC, ECD also joined TVA representatives to sign a Memorandum of Understanding officially putting the Synchronist Business Information System® program partnership into



Commissioner Kisber speaks to officials at the HCREDC kick-off in Livingston.

place. Under the partnership, the HCREDC will become the first regional council to use the system as a tool to help identify issues and opportunities related to business retention and expansion.

Synchronist is a software program designed to facilitate the gathering of company-specific data to support existing industry. TVA purchased the Synchronist system for the purpose of developing a collaborative business retention strategy. In addition, ECD and TVA will work together on marketing the availability of the system.

Wilder-Naifeh grants available

The important role that education plays in economic development is evident as more companies require a higher level of skill sets from employees in specific job functions.

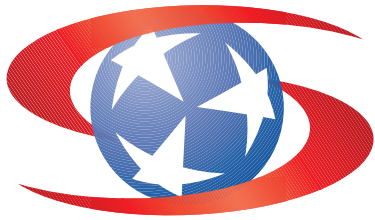
To help build on the quality of Tennessee's local labor pool, the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship (TELS) Program has introduced the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant.

"Most jobs today and in the future are requiring workers to adapt, comprehend and react quicker, and so there's a great deal

of emphasis on education when companies begin to screen potential locations to expand or relocate," said ECD Commissioner Matthew Kisber.

The Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant provides up to \$1,250 per year to anyone pursuing a certificate or diploma at a Tennessee Technology Center.

The deadline for applying for the grant award is no later than May 1. For eligibility requirements and an application form, visit the TELS web site at www.tnscholar-dollars.com.



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*"Talent wins games,
but teamwork
and intelligence
wins championships."
- Michael Jordan*

 Tennessee Department of Economic
& Community Development, Authorization
#330906 — 2,700 copies, April 2004. This
public document was promulgated at a cost
of 28¢ per copy.



Commissioner at Work

A few highlights of Commissioner Kisber's Most Recent Activities

Speaking Engagements:

- Leadership Weakley County
- 4 County Regional Program
- Leadership Chattanooga
- West Star Leadership
- Mt. Juliet/West Wilson County Chamber Luncheon
- 92nd Annual Meeting presented by the Tennessee Chamber
- TN Biotechnology Association Legislative Luncheon
- Maury County Day on the Hill
- 9th Annual Rural Development Conference at Tennessee Tech University
- Worker's Compensation Panel Discussion for the TN Business Roundtable

Events:

- Aisin Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Bridgestone Ribbon Cutting
- Blue Ribbon Panel Meeting at Northeast State Technical Community College
- National Center for Higher Education Board Meeting
- Meet and Greet with Macon County Rural Development
- Visit and tour of K & A Crylics, Inc.
- Sharpierville Celebration
- Tennessee Preservation Trust Conference
- ARC Field Forum

DEVELOPMENTS

*Published by the
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Department of Economic &
Community Development*

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Calendar of Events

April 16-17, 2004	Japan/American Society Program, Nashville, TN
May 2004	Business & Industry Appreciation Month
May 3-5, 2004	Tennessee Industrial Development Council Spring Conference, Gatlinburg, TN
May 15-19, 2004	Corporate Real Estate Network (CoreNet), Chicago, IL

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sept. 28 - 30: Tennessee ECD Governor's Conference - Nashville, TN